

History of the Hanover Park and Recreation Committee

Upon his death in 1926, B. Everett Hall gave to the town a bequest of his property 'for the purpose of establishing and maintaining playgrounds for the children and public parks. Also for providing a game preserve in order that we may bring the birds back as of yore.' On March 24, 1930, Town Meeting voted to appoint a committee of three to develop a playground. This original committee consisted of Edmund Q. Sylvester, Stanley A. Briggs, and William A. Flynn.

Town Meeting in 1946 voted to raise and appropriate money for repairs to B. Everett Hall playground to be spent under the direction of the Playground Committee, said Committee to be appointed by the Moderator with the approval of the Selectmen. The first official Playground Committee consisted of Alfred G. Lovell, George L. Legg, and William Lloyd. This committee worked hard to keep B. Everett Hall field in playing condition, juggling the very popular baseball and football programs

In 1951, the town accepted the deed of 12 ½ acres on Circuit Street from Calvin and Mildred Ellis as a playground in memory of their son, Calvin Ellis, Jr., who was killed in action in Germany in 1945. Calvin Ellis served on the playground committee in 1951 but passed away that same year before the field was completed. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1953, the Calvin J. Ellis, Jr. Playground and Park was dedicated and the deed was turned over to the Playground Committee Chairman Alfred Lovell. Chairman Lovell announced "it was the burning desire of Calvin J. Ellis, father of this hero, to build this beautiful playground in the memory of his son and to present it to the youth of today and tomorrow that they might enjoy the freedom his son loved so much."

In 1961, the town purchased the tract of land containing 60 acres or so on Myrtle and Center Streets for the purpose of a public playground under the direction of the Playground Committee.

In 1966, Alfred G. Lovell stepped down from the Playground Committee after serving nearly twenty years on the committee.

Town Meeting in 1967 voted to enlarge the Playground Committee from 3 members to 6 and charged them with the duties and obligations as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws as amended, Chapter 45, Section 14.

Town meeting in 1971 voted to change the name of the Playground Committee to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee.

1974 marked the first year the committee organized programs in the winter, which included swimming and skiing. The committee felt that recreation in the town of Hanover should become a year round activity for all of its residents.

In 1989, the Parks and Recreation Committee assumed responsibility for maintaining and scheduling the Bandstand Summer Concert Series at B. Everett Hall Field.

Goals were established in 1995 that included:

- Offer a variety of organized recreational activities,
- Maintain and schedule recreation and athletic facilities,
- Provide support services for community recreation organizations.

The Committee is indebted to the Hanover Youth Athletic Association (H.Y.A.A.) for its services to the town in offering year round athletic programs.

In 2004, Town Meeting formally amended the by-laws for the Parks and Recreation Committee as follows:

4-18 Parks and Recreation Committee

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Committee, appointed by the Moderator with the approval of the Selectmen. The Parks and Recreation Committee will consist of 5 (five) residents of Hanover, and one member representing the Bandstand activities to vote on Bandstand related issues, all of whom will be members at large. The committee members, including the Bandstand representative, will be appointed for terms of three years, with the option for reappointment at the end of any term. In order to create a revolving committee, two initial at-large appointments will be for one-year terms, two initial at-large appointments will be for two-year terms, and one initial at-large appointment will be for a three-year term. The Parks and Recreation Committee will meet on a seasonal basis and at such other times as is necessary, with the department head or committee chair of the Department of Public Works and Open Space Committee. Said meetings are to coordinate the needs of the Parks and Recreation Committee with those committees with which they work closely. On at least an annual basis, the Parks and Recreation Committee will present a report of its actions, and its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, and keep the public informed of its actions whether in the Town Report or at Annual Town Meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Committee shall be responsible for:

- 1) overseeing the day to day maintenance and improvements of the recreation facilities under its jurisdiction, together with the fences, bleachers, dugouts and other appurtenances;
- 2) scheduling the use of ball courts, fields and other recreation facilities;
- 3) implementing and managing recreation programs;
- 4) coordinating the Bandstand Summer Concert Series with all activities incidental thereto;
- 5) hiring and overseeing employees and volunteers to work in recreation programs;
- 6) preparing, administering and monitoring the annual budget, including controlling Parks and Recreation Trust Funds, Revolving accounts, and
- 7) General Fund accounts;
- 8) working with other Town Officers to ensure all safety, access, employment, construction and other legal requirements are met.

at the Committee's discretion, perform such other activities as are needed to address the recreation needs of the Town.

(Accepted May, 2004) (Approved by the Attorney General, August 20, 2004)